

Comment to the FCC regarding Proceeding No. 02-33:

With significant experience in the internet industry, I feel certain that broadband deployment will be greatly expedited, and consumer choice enhanced by REQUIRING OPEN ACCESS TO BROADBAND NETWORKS (cable and phone lines).

These networks were built by publicly regulated monopolies and financed by ratepayers who paid rates that were set by government to ensure a fair rate of return to the regulated monopoly in a non-competitive (and therefore, significantly risk-reduced) environment. They should not be treated as private networks.

No one would suggest that either the public or the economy would be better served if physical goods were moved along a network (i.e., the interstate highway system) the access to which was restricted at the sole discretion of private owners/interests.

Similarly, neither the public nor the economy is well served by a network for the distribution of information and data (i.e., broadband networks), the access to which is restricted by RBOC's and cable companies--two entities that have demonstrated a propensity for suppressing competition, monopolistic pricing, poor customer service, and stunted innovation.

Already, the actions of the FCC (signaling its propensity for allowing private regulation of broadband networks by the RBOC's and cable companies) has significantly dampened venture capital interest in broadband ISP's, thereby slowing the deployment of those networks.

Thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing my comments.